

ART 34 AMDT

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CLAIMS

1. A hinge assembly including a hinge assembly including a first hinge leaf hingedly connected to a second hinge leaf by a hinge pin, the hinge pin being rotatably mounted in one hinge leaf and non-rotatably mounted in the other hinge leaf, and a check mechanism operably connected to the hinge pin and said one hinge leaf to releasably hold the first and second hinge leaves at at least one angular position about the hinge axis, the check mechanism including a check body rotatably located within an annular cam track, the check body including two or more check members which are spaced from one another circumferentially about the hinge axis, the check members being resiliently biased in a radial outward direction relative to the hinge axis to engage and run along said cam track, the check means being driven along said annular cam track by relative rotation between said first and second hinge leaves, the cam track including at desired locations therealong one or more check formations which co-operate with said check means to releasably retain the first and second hinge leaves at a desired angular position relative to one another, the cam track being formed on a reaction member which is non-rotatably located in a housing fixedly secured to said one hinge leaf, the reaction member being in the form of an annulus formed from sintered metal, and the housing being formed as a metal pressing.

2. A hinge assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the housing has a bottom wall and an open top closed by an end cap, the check body being located inbetween the bottom wall and end cap and the hinge pin being rotatably supported in said bottom wall and end cap.

3. A hinge assembly according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein the check formations are in the form of recesses spaced along the cam track into which the check members are received in order to releasably retain the hinge leafs at a desired angular position relative to one another.

4. A hinge assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the recesses are arranged in one or more groups corresponding to respective check positions, the recesses in each group corresponding in number and circumferential spacing to the number and circumferential spacing of the check members such that at a desired check position all check members are located in a corresponding recess of the group.

5. A hinge assembly according to any preceding claim wherein the check members are in the form of balls.

6. A hinge assembly according to Claim 5 wherein each ball is located in a radially extending bore formed in the check body in which is housed resilient means for biasing the ball radially outwardly.

7. A hinge assembly according to any preceding claim wherein said other hinge leaf is axially withdrawable from the hinge pin so as to define a lift-off hinge assembly.

8. A hinge assembly substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.